

February 6, 1967

Professor Lucien Baillaud
Faculté des Sciences Botanique
4, rue Ledru
67 Clermont-Ferrand
France

Dear Professor Baillaud:

Thank you for your interesting comment expressed in your letter of December 1.

I am afraid I find it rather difficult to answer your question. The terms of your own letter will help illustrate the difficulty. It is obvious that you yourself had a definite reaction to the paper, but it is hard for me to know just what that reaction is. Furthermore, it would require a very intimate acquaintanceship to be able to ascertain your religious or philosophical position. I am afraid then it would be as difficult to do the research you indicate on others as it would be for me to classify the datum that your own letter represents.

If I may be permitted an intuition, however, it is that many readers will react to an article like this somewhat paradoxically at different levels of conscious and unconscious reception. Many will not really know what they themselves think about the issues that I have attempted to bring up for more deliberate analysis and discussion.

I hope I can emphasize the first sentence of the last paragraph of my paper.

Yours cordially,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

P.S. It may be some mitigation of the stridency of a discussion like this to point out that the prescriptions that we make for the education of the next generation differ only in method, not in aim, from the biological proposals discussed in my article.

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BAILLAUD